Year	Imports (000 MT)	Duty (Rs. cr.)	Rate
1993-94	43.2	49.89	65%
1994-95	18.6	81.56	50%
1995-96	58.1	159.73	40%

The quantum of stainless steel required to be imported depends on variety of factors, such as domestic production, prices in the domestic and international markets, the domestic demand and the production in related sectors. Hence it is not possible to quantify the stainless steel required to be imported.

(b) Normally, duty structure in respect of various commodities is reviewed before preparation of general Budget proposals. Changes made in basic customs duty structure on stainless steel and products thereof in this year's Budget, are given below:

Stainless Steel slabs	:	20%
H.R. Coils	:	25%
C.R. Coils and other products	:	30%

(c) Information in this regard is being collected and will be laid before the House in due course.

(d) and (e). The method of disposal of absolutely confiscated goods, including stainless steel, is either through auction or through tenders. No difficulty has been faced in this method of disposal.

Multinational Corporations

4552. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to invite foreign institutional investors to increase foreign investment in the country and to give autonomy to PSEs;

(b) if so, the special measure taken to attract foreign investment and the areas of such investment explored so far; and

(c) the estimated foreign investment likely to be increased therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) With a view to promote modernisation and technological upgradation, investments from other countries including foreign institutions is encouraged. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front envisages that the Govt. will help to make public sector strong and competitive.

(b) To encourage foreign direct investment, the Govt. have, among other things, revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and have also constituted the Foreign Investment Promotion Council which would suggest ways and means for investment promotion. The sectors like power, telecom, railways and ports need huge investment.

(c) While it is not possible to anticipate the likely inflow of foreign investment in advance, trends in the foreign direct investment approvals so far, has been satisfactory.

Reservation for Handloom Sector

4553. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cut down the list of 20 items reserved for exclusive production for handlooms sector;

(b) if so, the details there of alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its decision to safeguard the interests of the weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d). The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production Act, 1985 aims to protect and develop handloom industry by reserving articles or class of articles for exclusive production by Handlooms. The Act provides for periodic review of list of reserved articles based on the recommendations of an Advisory Committee. In pursuance of recent recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Govt. have notified a list of 11 articles which are reserved for exclusive production by Handlooms.

Banking support to Tea Gardens of Assam

4554. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tea Gardens of Assam are suffering from lack of banking support in the matter of their expansion and modernisation programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?